

### COMMENTS FROM OUR MEMBERS

H. A. Todd of Visalia, commenting on the editorial about the \$2 tax, says:

"To use my own editor's words rearranged, it is a cheap, unfair, unjust nuisance and a flagrant example of class legislation. Class legislation is strictly prohibited by the constitution of our great nation. 'Why was such a law ever passed, anyway?' I once asked my attorney. He answered, 'Nearly all laws are made by lawyers; our legislators are nearly all lawyers; they are not passing laws taxing themselves.' Not a bad answer, eh, Dear Editor? Please count me as objecting very strongly against that law, not because of the \$2, but I would like to see fair play."

Another member, who asks us not to publish his name, says:

"The editorial in the May number of California and Western Medicine, with reference to the Board of Medical Examiners' tax, should have the endorsement of every active practitioner who wishes fair play and resents class legislation.

"It would seem as though consistency, however, demanded activity, in protest of what seems to the writer a very much more unjust tax on the medical profession in San Francisco, viz.: the Municipal License Tax, iniquitous, in that it is a tax on gross income; discriminatory, in that two types of professional men have been singled out by the previous Board of Supervisors and held up every three months.

"Would it not be well if our medical societies, in addition to their academic functions, would operate, to the end that practical relief could be brought about in this matter of unjust taxation?"

Comment upon the excessive cost of filling prescriptions as one of the reasons why patients often buy their own medicine:

"R. Forrest of Occidental is right when he says, as is being said by many other people in various places in the medical world, that physicians ought always to consider the patient's economic situation when writing prescriptions. Many physicians will find good pharmacies willing to co-operate with them in making special rates to patients whom the physicians themselves have charged minimum fees or none at all for their services."

### Gangrene in the Nose Complicating Diabetes—

Chester H. Bowers, Los Angeles (Journal A. M. A., April 26, 1924), calls attention to a condition of gangrene in the nose in young children complicating diabetes. Three cases are reported. The patients were young children, the oldest being only ten years of age. The blood Wassermann reaction was negative in two cases of the group, and in the case in which no Wassermann test was made there was a negative family history; the child was the eldest of four children, and it is reasonably certain that this child was not syphilitic. This was in the case of gangrene of the cheek, which is less suggestive of syphilis than the other two. In these cases, the gangrene developed in children with young vessels, and obviously cannot be explained on an arteriosclerotic basis. Bowers believes that they should be considered a thrombosis of the type described as thrombo-angiitis obliterans; that in the presence of an infection an inflammatory condition resulted in the artery, which was followed by thrombosis and gangrene of the tissue distal to the thrombosed artery. The discovery of insulin before the last case was treated is responsible for its favorable outcome, as contrasted with that of the two earlier fatal cases.

## Obituary

### Memorial Tribute to the Memory of S. F. Smith, Charter Member of the Kern County Medical Society

(By the Kern County Medical Society)

Samuel Franklin Smith, a pioneer physician of this county, after an illness of some few months, passed unto the Great Beyond at Bakersfield, April 3, 1924. He was born in Fairfield, Ill., May 15, 1865, where he spent his boyhood days and received his early education. He received the Degree of Bachelor of Science from his literary Alma Mater, after which he took up the honored calling of teaching until he entered the study of medicine, his greatest ambition, entering the medical department of the University of Southern California, from which he graduated in 1895. He immediately moved to Bakersfield, which community he faithfully served as a country practitioner for nearly thirty years.

In the early days he was closely associated with A. F. Schafer, and was one of the prime movers in the organization of the Kern County Medical Society, becoming a charter member, and always taking an active interest, serving as president and also as secretary at various times.

Doctor Smith was a man of firm and decided convictions. He took a keen interest in the politics of the county, state, and of the nation. He was a member of the Board of Freeholders which framed the present city charter, and many of its excellent provisions are due to his efforts and wise counsel. Upon the adoption of the charter he served his ward as a member of the city council.

He was a close friend of the late George J. Planz, by whom he was held in the highest esteem. Upon the meeting of the men who formed the Bakersfield Security Co., forerunner of the Bakersfield Security Trust Co., it was found hard to agree upon a plan of formation. After much discussion, it was agreed that each formulate a plan to present at a future meeting. At the next meeting, when Mr. Planz read Doctor Smith's plan, he reached into his desk and got his own plan, which he immediately threw into the wastebasket, remarking, "This is the plan under which we will work." When the Security Trust Co. became a bank, Mr. Planz tried to induce Doctor Smith to become one of the bank's responsible officials, but Doctor Smith could not be persuaded to leave the profession he loved.

In the passing of Doctor Smith, Kern County loses one of its leading physicians and a citizen of high ideals and integrity, who commanded the esteem of his fellowmen.

## DEATHS

**Stratton, Robert Thompson.** Died at Oakland, May 5, 1924, age 62. Graduate of the Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia, 1886. He was formerly a member of the Alameda County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

**Whisman, Henry Stafford.** Died at San Jose, May 15, 1924, age 34. Graduate of Johns Hopkins University Medical Department, Baltimore, 1915. Licensed in California, 1919. He was a member of the Santa Clara County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.